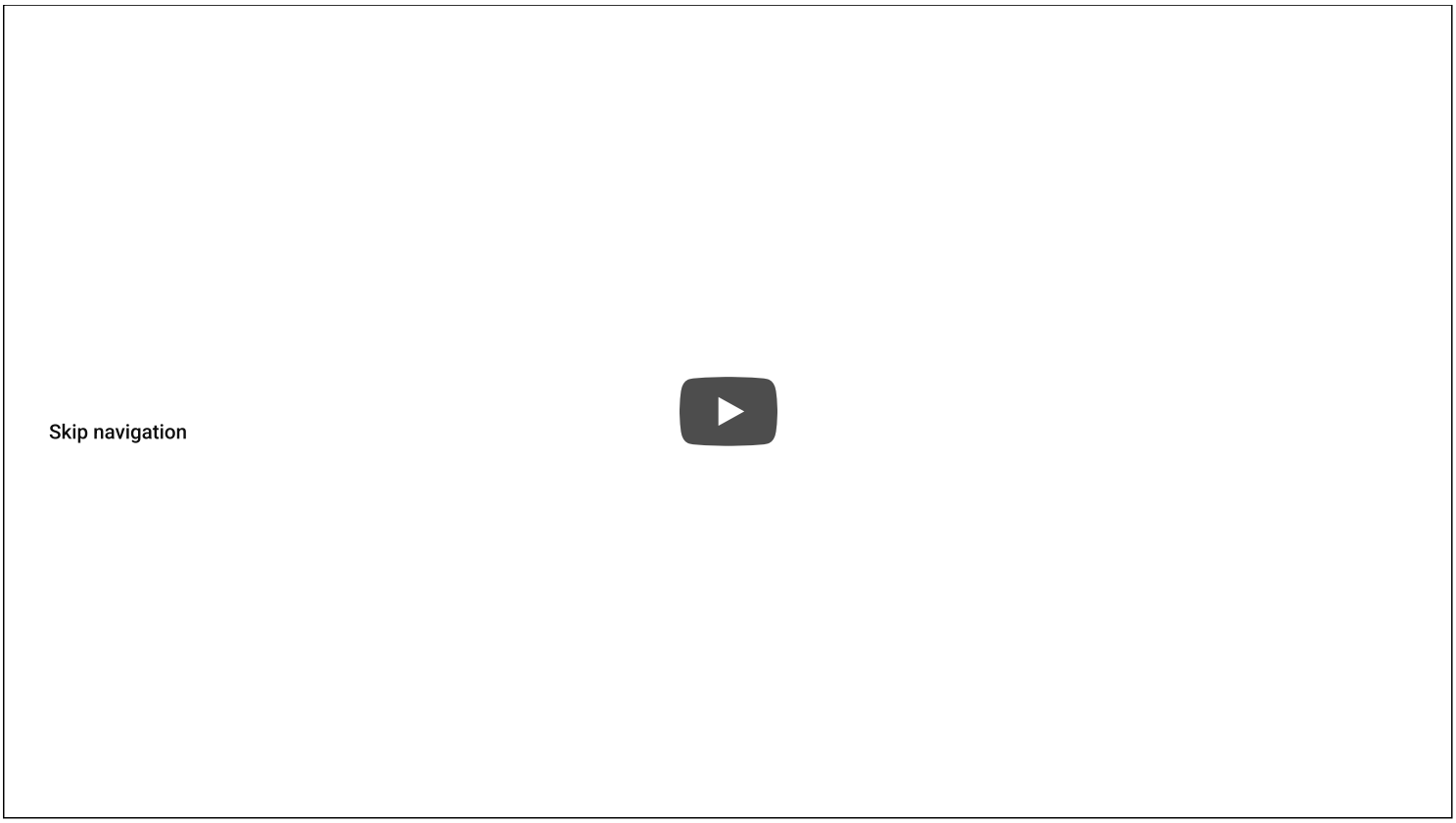

Verdun 1916: The 300-Day Hell of World War I

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1,406,620 views Jun 12, 2026 VERDUN

In 1916, the hills of eastern France became the site of the longest and most brutal battle in human history. Over 300 days, the Battle of Verdun claimed 300,000 lives and left 400,000 wounded in a "duel before the universe".

This documentary, directed by Serge de Sampigny, uses rare colorized archives and 3D terrain modeling to plunge you into the heart of the "Meuse Slaughterhouse." From the secret German offensive led by the Crown Prince to the heroic French defense under Philippe Pétain, witness the strategic blunders, the industrial scale of the killing, and the raw courage of the men who shouted: "They shall not pass!".

In this video:
The Secret Plan: How the Germans planned to "bleed the French white".
The Sacred Way: The 24/7 logistical miracle that saved Verdun.
Life in the Trenches: Moving personal accounts from soldiers on both sides.
The Legacy: How Verdun shaped future leaders like Charles de Gaulle and Paul von Hindenburg

00:00 - 1916: The Longest Battle of the Great War
01:04 - Kaiser Wilhelm II's Secret Offensive
06:13 - February 21st: The Steel Hurricane Unleashed
10:26 - The Fall of Fort Douaumont: A French Humiliation
15:05 - Pétain and the Logistics of the "Sacred Way"
20:06 - Dead Man's Hill: The Bloody Duel for the Heights
25:05 - The Home Front: Famine vs. Carefree Living
32:42 - Industrial and Technological Warfare Out of Control
37:21 - The Heroic Siege and Fall of Fort Vaux
42:04 - The Final Reconquest and the Heavy Human Toll

Chapters

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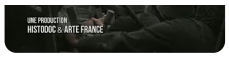

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1916: The Longest Battle of the Great…

1:04

Kaiser Wilhelm II's Secret Offensive

6:13

February 21st: The Steel Hurricane…

10:26

The Fall of Fort Douaumont: A Frenc…

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Pétain and the Logistics of the…

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Transcript

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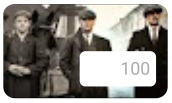

History

by Best Documentary

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53:51

Verdun, l'Enfer Souterrain : Survivre Sous une Pluie d'Obus | SLICE HISTOIRE | DOC COMPLET

SLICE Histoire

▷ 106K 3mo ago

12:04

THE PIT

Про людей и про войну

▷ 12M 4y ago

Auto-dubbed

2:38:41

Kobanê Film 2023 | Full HD 2023 Film Kobanê-Berxwedana Kobanê

Kobane Film

▷ 13M 3y ago

44:21

De ce a intrat avionul românesc în picaj spre pământ? | Dezastre în aer

National Geographic Romania

▷ 439K 2mo ago

52:04

Vietnam War, the Last Secrets

Best Documentary

▷ 7.6M 2y ago

52:47

1700 de oi în munții Făgăraș cu tânărul Mihai Guiman | Întâlnire cu lupul | Bulz făcut pe jar Ep.1

Bobb 11

▷ 70K 11mo ago

11:18

How the Mighty Scharnhorst Was Sunk

Yarnhub

9.5M 8mo ago

56:05

TRANSHUMANȚA ÎN MUNȚII RETEZAT | Povești ciobănești la gura focului

Bobb 11

24K 2mo ago

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Pinned by @BestDoc

@BestDoc 5 months ago

"They shall not pass." These four words defined the spirit of Verdun, but they came at a cost the world had never seen before: 300,000 dead and 400,000 wounded in a single battle.

This documentary explores the "Hell of Verdun," from the secret German offensive to the legendary defense led by Philippe Pétain. It is a story of ...

Read more

105 Reply

21 replies

@fr4gged 12 days ago

Before the two minute mark, I already knew this would be better than most other docs churned out nowadays. A real person narrating, and even an orchestral score to go along with it.

8 Reply

@skippygatten8572 2 months ago

I've hiked around this battlefield. 100 years later you can still tell a great battle took place.

132 Reply

8 replies

@DrakonErythros 2 months ago

Love documentaries of this quality. A lot of modern ones really suck.

152 Reply

8 replies

@vinkingfm 2 months ago

My great great grandfather fought and survived the battle of the Somme. My grandad, said that when he asked him about the war, he just gave him a vacant look and said "I don't like to mention the things I saw, I see the horrors of the Somme every night, and I wouldn't want to give you the same torture, but I will tell you this, I can still smell it"

46 Reply

@Randalf-TheRed 2 months ago (edited)

Edit: His name is Paul Bandey.

194 Reply

41 replies

@WVGrower 2 months ago

"The War will be over in 4 Weeks"
We've heard That before...

188 Reply

28 replies

Skip navigation

wn 2 months ago

wow. this is 10/10 in production quality. thank u so much

29 Reply

@SleepyCityHistories-g9 2 months ago

Verdun is one of those battles that defies comprehension. Hundreds of thousands of casualties, months of relentless fighting, and in the end only a few miles of ground changed hands. It perfectly captures the tragedy of World War I.

12 Reply

7 replies

@gixrod8327 9 days ago

I recommend to visit this place. It gives you a wider perspective of life to see the fields and to hear the sound of silence over there.

2 Reply

@showze21 2 months ago (edited)

this is a really good verdun documentary

20 Reply

@crushlife5243 2 months ago

I've watched a ton of WW1 documentaries but never once heard that survivors came back 10 years later to refilm what it was like..... wow

33 Reply

3 replies

@robertkorsberg18 2 months ago

Of course, this was at one point a full on feature length film. Back when tv networks used to broadcast quality educational shows.

26 Reply

@bigjumbo9479 2 months ago

19:59 that man died screaming in agony and terror and his face stuck that way ...there's no words I can write to show how I feel about that

32 Reply

2 replies

@kennethanderson8827 1 month ago

When it comes to Verdun, it was neither glorious, or absurd. It was just absolutely necessary, and the brave men who fought, were wounded, and died there, in defense of France, deserve to be honored with reverence for all time.

3 Reply

21 Reply

@lex1945 2 months ago

Standing on Fort de Vaux and Fort de Douamont, i saw the enormous craters, the devastation of concrete, steel twisted as if they were shoelaces.. It left a deep impression on me.

8 Reply

@AndreasWinter-l1f 2 months ago

So sah der sogenannte Heldentod aus
Wie der eine Soldat geschrieben hatte "es ist ein Irrenhaus voller Wahnsinniger" wie wahr.

14 Reply

@tonino7650 2 months ago

Le nom original de CE documentaire, s'appelle :
"Le bruit et la fureur".
Chez nous en France,on connaît !!
C'est un bon docu.

13 Reply

1 reply

@chrismillard4651 2 months ago

The one that got me is the man crying "My little girl"..... I don't know if he made it back, but just the angst in the mans heart. When you have a baby at home that needs you and you're stuck fighting for the selfishness of mans ego. It's the lowest of the low.

5 Reply